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Summary

Navy Day gets relatively little publicity in Radio Moscow's broadcasts, and regional comment on the occasion is fragmentary. Ideological failings, particularly in art and literature, are still discussed at some length in a variety of contexts. Shortcomings in Party activities, in industry and, particularly in agriculture continue to dominate the radio output. The reluctance of workers to make better use of available technical facilities is emphasized. There is some reference to enlarged collective farms and the advantages derived from larger agricultural units.

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NAVY DAY

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The only regional comment on Navy Day appears in RADYANSKA UKRAINA and KAZAKHSTANSKAYA PRAVDA of 29 July which, like PRAVDA of the same date, refer to the occasion in conventional terms. KAZAKHSTANSKAYA PRAVDA also uses the occasion to criticize the Dosflot (Dobrovolnoye Obschestvo Sodeystvia Flotu - paramilitary organization for cooperation with the Navy) of the Kazakh SSR for not doing its best in the matter of enrolling more youth into its ranks and creating additional primary organizations. The Party, Soviet and Komsomol organizations of the Republic are said to be giving poor assistance to the Dosflot organizations and failing to direct their activities. RADYANSKA UKRAINA speaks of the USSR as a great maritime power, and emphasizes the importance of Dosflot in publicizing the Soviet Navy among the masses of the population. It also refers to the growing strength and purely defensive function of the Navy:

In reply to the criminal deeds of the enemies of peace, the Soviet people are showing more care for the strengthening... of the Army and the Navy.... The Soviet Navy was, is and will be the sole defender of our sea borders. (29 July)

UKRAINIAN NATIONALISM

CHERNOMORSKA KOMUNA calls for a continuing and ruthless struggle against Ukrainian bourgeois nationalism. It cites the works of some Odessa writers and critics, and points to the "nationalistic blunders" that were committed in several poems by Virkhman and in the poem "Ukraine" by Bondarenko. There is no mention of the content of these poems but the seriousness of the blunders is implicit in the paper's reference to the "unhealthy atmosphere" that exists among the writers:

The rayon Party organization has failed to help the Party primary organizations in improving political education and ideological work among the writers regardless of the fact that an unhealthy atmosphere based on the absence of principles and friendship prevails. (19 July)

The Vodnotransportny Rayon Communist Party, according to the same paper, has failed to organize the teaching of Marxism and Leninism among school teachers, and has done very little to improve Party-ideological work among the actors of the Zhovtneva Revolutsia (October Revolution) and the Opera And Ballet theatres. The latter is found guilty of deviating from "historical truth," and the appropriate Party workers of the Vodnotransportny Rayon are criticized for their failure to prevent such mistakes:

The secretaries and other Party workers of the Vodnotransportny Rayon do not penetrate deeply enough into the life and activities of such an important group of intelligentsia as the workers of the Opera And Ballet Theatre. The directors of that Theatre assumed an uncritical attitude toward the "Bogdan Khmelnytsky" opera whose libretto contains serious shortcomings regarding historical truth.

RADYANSKA UKRAINA, assailing the bourgeois nationalistic ideology and the absence of ideas in the work of individual writers, deplors the "unhealthy circumstances" that led to the production of such an "abortive" opera as "From A Sincere Heart" by Zhukovsky. The editorial also admonishes the Radyanska Shkola Publishing House for its favorable criticism of Sosyura's recently-condemned poem "Love the Ukraine." The paper says that the Ukrainian Academy of Sciences was guilty of a similar error but does not amplify the point:

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The same line had been taken in the second volume of the "History of Ukrainian Literature," prepared by the Institute of Ukrainian Literature of the Ukrainian Academy of Sciences.

The same attitude of friendliness, of glossing over mistakes, prevails also in the Union of Soviet Composers of the Ukraine. (22 July)

The pertinence of the PRAVDA criticism of ideological work (2 and 7 July) to the situation in the Dnepropetrovsk Oblast is admitted in a ZARYA (Dawn) editorial of 25 July which deals with the low quality of lecture propaganda. The propaganda situation is said to be particularly reprehensible in the Pereschepinsky and Krynychansky rayons where the Society for the Propagation of Political and Scientific Knowledge exists only formally. The low theoretical and ideological level of the lecture propaganda is attributed to the low level of control and leadership on the part of the local Party Committees which are not devoting sufficient attention to matters of ideology.

The ideological theme is taken up again by RADYANSKA UKRAINA on 26 July. It passes the verdict "guilty" on the entire Republic: "The facts show that various ideological perversions have not been eradicated entirely. This is especially true of the Ukraine." Involved in this blanket indictment, among others, are the Kiev, Kharkov, Lvov, Zaporozhye and a number of other Party organizations where "serious mistakes in the state of ideological work were discovered." The Zaporozhye Party officials are singled out for their "blundering supervision" of ideological work. Only political imbecility, says the paper, can explain their formal attitude toward the rectification of errors in ideological work.

Reiterating the Communist dictum that Soviet culture is national in form and socialist in content, RADYANSKA UKRAINA observes that the people are not yet up to the required ideological standard:

Since...the consciousness of the people lags behind economic developments, the remnants of capitalism in the Soviet Union have not yet been fully eradicated from the people's minds. The views, traditions and habits established by the capitalist system still survive...although capitalism has long been absent from the economy of our country. (26 July)

Low-level ideological work is also reported from the Proskurov oblast (27 July) where the lectures sponsored by the Society for the Propagation of Scientific and Political Knowledge are not as "militant" as Bolshevik propaganda should be.

SHORTCOMINGS

Agriculture: In a letter to Stalin dated 17 July, the agricultural workers of the Kazakh SSR speak in glowing terms of the successes they have achieved. According to the letter the 5-year Plan for increasing livestock, has been fulfilled, and the plan for the expansion of the sowing area has been exceeded. However, KAZAKHSTANSKAYA PRAVDA is less optimistic about the agricultural situation, and attributes the disruption of agricultural plans to inefficient administration:

Insufficient direction on the part of responsible organs which do not show interest in the condition of plantations... as well as inoperative direction of kolkhozes and machine-tractor stations have brought about the disruption of agricultural plans. Especially poor is the progress of industrial crop cultivation in the South Kazakhstan oblast. (31 July)

The paper also reveals that in Dzhabul Oblast, where there have been complaints of a shortage of cultivating machinery, a number of newly-delivered tractors were found idle in the stores of the Agricultural Bureau.

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Considerable losses of grain, which resulted from faulty harvesting organization and inadequate preparation of transportation facilities in the Dzhambul Oblast, are deplored by KAZAKHSTANSKAYA PRAVDA of 26 July. It claims that the failure to insure the necessary machinery for moving the grain from combines to storage resulted in the combines being paralyzed while the wheat was over-ripening in the fields. The editorial claims that frequently losses in harvesting are the fault of the combine operators. It urges heads of machine-tractor stations to cut payments to combiners whose losses exceed 30 percent. Pilferage seems to be one of the elements involved in the great grain losses, for the editorial reminds agricultural officials, that they should assume personal responsibility for the harvest, and that "it is imperative to weigh the grain as often as possible."

The Kazakh SSR is also lagging behind the Plan for construction of wells, ponds and water reservoirs--all part of the nationwide afforestation and irrigation project--and KAZAKHSTANSKAYA PRAVDA (25 July) reminds the Republic's agricultural workers of their promise to Stalin to build 3,500 wells and 200 ponds and reservoirs this year. There is no mention of the number of wells and ponds already built but the annual plan is said to have been fulfilled by only 16.8 percent. In the Alma Ata oblast for example, where the well-construction plan was fulfilled by only 25 percent, the collective farms are unable to utilize their pastures because of insufficient water. The South Kazakhstan and Dzhambul oblasts are said to be "exceptionally lagging in this task."

Slow harvesting and grain losses in a number of oblasts in the Ukraine are discussed in a RADYANSKA UKRAINA editorial (19 July) which mentions the Zaporozhye, Kirovograd, Dnepropetrovsk, Odessa, Nikolayev and Vinnitsa oblasts as particularly slow agricultural areas. Reluctance to utilize agricultural machinery is given as the chief reasons for their backwardness:

But why is the tempo of harvesting work (in these oblasts)
so low and why does it not meet the requirements of today?
Because technology is far from being utilized....

KIROVOGRADSKA PRAVDA also inveighs against the inadmissible grain losses in the oblast, particularly in Petrovsky, Kamensky and Alexandrovsky rayons. Here only 22 to 25 percent of the harvested crops had been stacked by 20 July, and in the Bolshevyskovsky, Khmelevsky and Novgorodkovsky rayons only four to five percent of the straw for kolkhoz use has been stacked so far.

MOLOT (Rostov, 25 July) discusses the desirability of pre-scheduled grain delivery, criticizing a number of rayons for being far behind schedule. Poor organization of transportation facilities accounts for the bad job, the paper charges. An implicit admission of insufficient motor transportation is also contained in the paper's suggestion that as many draft animals as possible be used to transport the grain.

Grain deliveries are being conducted unsatisfactorily
in the Malchevsky, Kasharsky, Alexeyo-Lozovsky,
Selivanovsky, Bolshe-Krepinsky, Anastasievsky,
Fedorovsky and Krivorogsky rayons.

Failures in the construction of farm stock buildings in the Rostov oblast is conceded by MOLOT (28 July) which asserts that in 45 rayons of the oblast not a single building has been erected during the past six months, despite the fact that at least 6,000 buildings must be built to fill the gap between the expanding cattle herds and available housing. The semi-annual plan for the construction of farm stock buildings, says the paper, has been fulfilled by only 2.4 percent.

On 26 July MOLOT notes that waste of collective farm land verges on the criminal. Oblast agricultural officials are reminded that the tenure of land, under the kolkhoz charter (kolkhozny ustav), does not presuppose ownership: "Land is the property of the State and is held by the kolkhozes in perpetuity. Party organs must make this plain to all kolkhozniks." The issue is highlighted because kolkhoz lands were found to be "wasted" in the Oktyabrsky rayon. The editorial does not make clear whether the land was left uncultivated or used for private purposes, but the charge that it constitutes violation of the kolkhoz charter suggests the latter

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possibility; failure to utilize all cultivable land is usually regarded as inefficiency or poor administration and not as a violation of the collective farm statute:

The 'code,' writes Comrade Stalin, is an effective law. It is a fundamental law for the building of a new society in the villages.... Rayon Party Committees must equip Communists and leaders of agricultural artels with Lenin-Stalin teachings on the kolkhoz system.

STALINGRADSKAYA PRAVDA complains of the inadequate fodder silage and tractor utilization in the oblasts of the Stalingrad region asserting that the rayon Party committees are responsible for these shortcomings. The time lag between haymowing and the storage of silage is said to be serious in the Saprinsky, Eltonsky, Bykovsky, Staro-Poltavsky, Kotelnikovsky and Proleyka rayons. The situation is not much better in the protective-forest and machine-tractor stations, 87 of which "have failed to organize the ensilage of fodder in accordance with the established work plan."

In Krasnoarmeisky rayon, where there are more than 200 tractors, the machine-tractor stations have plowed only 112 hectares. Matters are even worse in the Dobovsky and (Gorno-Vodyanovsky) machine-tractor stations where only 129 and 52 hectares of land respectively were plowed. (28 July)

Shortcomings are also reported in other areas. "Insufferably slow" kolkhoz construction in the Kherson oblast is charged by NADDNEPRYANSKA PRAVDA which says that certain officials of the oblast marketing organizations must share the guilt with the directors of kolkhoz construction, in view of their "irresponsible attitude toward supplying the kolkhozes with timber." The paper cites an extreme case of corruption resulting from poor organization:

In the Lenin kolkhoz, Gornostayevsky rayon, a construction brigade of 25 people was set up but it fell to pieces without starting work. The brigade leader alone is occupying himself with construction work: he is building a house for himself. (31 July)

Agricultural shortcomings ranging in definition from "very serious" to "poor" are reported also from the following areas:

Odesa: "the state of grain delivery is still very bad...." (BOLSHEVISTSKOYE ZNAMYA, 27 July)

Stavropol: "a considerable portion of the delivery plan has not yet been fulfilled." (STAVROPOLSKAYA PRAVDA, 27 July)

Proskurov: "in the oblast as a whole the grain delivery has not yet reached the desired tempo." (RADYANSKE PODILYA, 17 July)

Vinnitsa: "grain deliveries are backward in a considerable number of rayons." (VINNITSKA PRAVDA, 25 July)

Yerevan (Armenian SSR): "Slow harvesting and unsatisfactory employment of machines." (SOVIETAGAN HAYASDAN, 25 July)

Industry: Shortcomings in industrial construction and mining are strongly criticized by KAZAKHSTANSKAYA PRAVDA (24 and 28 July), and charges are leveled against "many construction trusts and administrations of the Republic." The Kazakh Metallurgical Construction Trust is cited as an extreme case; it is "in debt to the State" for lagging behind the plan from month to month and at the same time showing a 20-percent increase in the expenditure as compared to the proposed costs. Another one is the

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(Shakhtube) Construction Administration, said to be "inexcusably" slow in the completion of its projects:

The productivity of excavators, mixers, transporters and other machinery does not even reach 50 percent of their potential.... In one quarter alone, the cost of construction-installation work increased by 598,000 rubles. (24 July)

Lack of leadership in the republican enterprises and ministries is held responsible for the poor showing made by the Leninogorsk lead plant and the Karaganda-Ugol Coal Trust (28 July). Kazakhstan workers are reminded of their promise to Stalin to achieve a high level of production, and told that "these shortcomings must be eliminated forthwith":

...the lead plant in Leninogorsk is in heavy debt. It has failed to complete the quarterly and semi-annual plans due to bad organization of labor....

Not all mines of the Karaganda-Ugol Coal Combine are fulfilling the plans which shows that work schedules are not being followed. The average monthly production of coal, by means of the "Donbas" combine extractor, is 1000 tons short of that provided by the plan. (28 July)

PRAVDA UKRAINY admits that the production of building materials in the Republic is still lagging behind "the demands of the rising level of economy." This phrasing suggests that an upward-revision has been made in the production schedule for the building materials industry, particularly in view of the Central Statistical Bureau's announcement that the production of building materials in the Ukraine during the first post war five-year plan exceeded the prewar level. This new schedule may also account for the failure of the building materials industry to cope with its plans in the first quarter of 1951 when as officially announced, it was fulfilled by only 97 percent. The same paper also complains of the poor quality of the materials produced, and urges the workers of the building materials industry to "liquidate their debt to the country and fulfil...the annual plan." (26 July)

Slow progress in the building of industrial and welfare establishments is said by STAVROPOLSKAYA PRAVDA (25 July) to be due to the low level of the organization of labor:

This is particularly apparent at the brick plant in Georgievsk, the fats-producing plant in Nevinnomyssk, the Lenin plant in Georgievsk, the cotton mill in Budennovsk and the meat combine in Stavropol.

A report from Orel (27 July) quotes ORLOVSKAYA PRAVDA as saying that "a number of local industries (and) enterprises are in debt to the State." Among them are two brick plants and a hydraulic machinery plant in Yelets. RABOCHY PUT says that in Smolensk the oblast industrial and invalids' cooperatives are derelict in their duties:

They do not meet the needs of the workers in the repair of footwear, clothing, furniture, metal goods and other household effects. (25 July)

Housing: Lack of attention to the workers' welfare is charged to the Ministry for the Construction of Enterprises of the Machine-Building Industry by the Sixth Plenum of the Council of Trade Unions. The Plenum points out that despite the fact that over 100 million square meters of living (floor) space have been built and restored in the post-war years, housing construction for the Ministry's workers is still not what it should be. No specific instances are cited, but the assumption is that poor housing conditions are prevalent in all the enterprises of this and

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other ministries:

The speakers (at the Plenum) also criticized the activity of economic organs of some other ministries and trade unions for the insufficient attention paid to the improvement of living conditions. (TASS, 26 July)

Party Activities: RADYANSKA UKRAINA declares that the Kharkov City Party Committee is not maintaining proper contact with the masses despite previous criticisms. The same applies to the Kharkov Soviet leaders who do not bother to report to the people except when they have to:

...the majority of the heads of sections of the city Soviet Committee hardly ever make reports or speeches, regarding it to be sufficient to give their reports only during the electoral campaign. (21 July)

A terse announcement by the Plenum of the Central Committee of the Turkmenian Communist Party says that Batyrov, First Secretary of the Central Committee, was relieved of his duties and replaced by Babayev. It is evident that the dismissal or purge of Batyrov had been determined before the Plenum took place for the principal address before the Central Committee was made by one of the other secretaries, Telnikov, and not by the First Secretary, who usually makes the opening speech. (Home Service, 17 July)

A stricter observance of the Komsomol charter (ustav) is urged in the KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA editorial of 18 July. The paper says that the failure to pay Komsomol membership dues reveals lack of discipline and inadequate education: "The fact that in certain organizations some members have not paid their membership dues must be regarded as a defect in their education."

Serious shortcomings in the work of primary, rayon and oblast Komsomol committees are reported by BOLSHHEVISTSKAYA MOLODEZH (Bolshevik Youth) in connection with the Smolensk oblast conference of kolkhoz Komsomol secretaries held on 22 July. No details are mentioned beyond the exhortation by First Secretary Malyeshnikov to work for the "further organizational and economic strengthening of the collective farms." The paper also said that other oblast organizations were also justly criticized. (26 July)

ENLARGED COLLECTIVE FARMS

The collective farm merger (ukrupnennie kolkhozi), initiated about two years ago, gets little publicity on the Moscow and regional radios, and the infrequent references to the campaign indicate that the process of amalgamating the small collective farms into larger ones is probably slower than expected. The number of enlarged collective farms in any Republic, oblast or other administrative division is not mentioned. TASS makes passing reference to 11,000 enlarged collective farms in the Ukraine but does not say whether that number constitutes the total or just part of the Ukrainian large farms. In a broadcast for agitators on the personal and communal interests of the collective farmers (Voroshilovgrad, 18 July), (Shakhmitsky) says that the collective farm merger became necessary because "small agricultural artels began to hinder the fullest utilization of the machinery and equipment provided by the State," and therefore could not raise labor productivity which is the chief target of socialist agriculture.

(Shakhmitsky) goes on to say that the plots of land held by the individual kolkhozniks will not be affected by the enlargement, and will remain the same "until the kolkhozniks reject them themselves, convinced of their disadvantages." Among the other compelling reasons cited as being behind the drive for larger collective farms are the anti-social tendencies which, as emphasized on various occasions before, find a favorable atmosphere on small farms. The enlarged farms, says the commentator, are necessary for inculcating among the kolkhozniks "the importance of communal work and the interests of communal economy by eliminating anti-social tendencies."

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In a talk on growing collective farm income since the war, Petukhov reverts to the farm merger question (24 July) and lists some of the benefits accruing from such merger, without, however, citing any specific figures:

The enlargement of the smaller collective farms has led to still further benefits in the lives of its workers. The incomes of the enlarged collective farms are, as a rule, greater than were the combined incomes of the smaller farms now making up the larger unit.

Thus in the enlarged collective farms called Krasny Partisan and Krasny Chernomorets of the Krasnodar Krai the pay in money to each worker per day increased tenfold since amalgamation of the smaller units.

MISCELLANEOUS

Discussing the rights of Soviet citizens vis-a-vis those in the capitalist countries ("Replies to Listeners' Letters," 25 July), Orlov asserts that there is no law forbidding the individual to listen or write to any radio station in the world and that the departure of citizens from the USSR is governed by normal passport and immigration regulations. Orlov does not mention, that foreign broadcasts are jammed or that it is almost impossible for a Soviet citizen to leave the country permanently. Orlov resorts to the familiar device of pointing to the numerous foreign delegations visiting the USSR every year, and contrasts the welcome they receive in the Soviet Union with the "insurmountable obstacles set up by the State Department to keep foreigners out except for a few handpicked individuals."

A report from Alma Ata (14 July) lists five of the newly-elected secretaries of the Kazakh Komsomol Central Committee. Judging by the names four of them, including the first secretary, appear to be Russian. Only one, (Kerimbaev), seems to be a Kazakh.

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